GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:402
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
FIRE/CAVING IN THE MINES
MD ANWARUL HAQUE

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people have been affected by the fire and the caving in of the mines by the Bharat Coking Coal Limited Jharia and Raniganj coalfields;

(b) if so, the number of people affected and identified so far;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study to rehabilitate the affected people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b):On the basis of various studies including the diagnostic study of mine fires in BCCL, it is estimated thataround 22,000 houses/hutments in BCCL are falling in the critically endangered zone on account of fire and subsidence and need to be shifted.

(c) to (e): A number of study groups and committees have examined the issue in the past including the Standing Committee on Energy (1998-99) which also examined the fire and subsidence control in coal mines. The Standing Committeeon Energy's report was submitted on 22-3-1999 and action taken report has also been forwarded to the Parliament. Prior to this, a Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary(Coal)was constituted in December 1996 to look into the problems of fire and subsidence in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields to recommend mitigative measures. The Committee submitted its report in January 1998 and recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government of India. Details of the recommendations are furnished in Annexure.